

mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill would not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 2932 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFazio,
Chair.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 7, 2020.

Hon. PETER DEFazio,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFazio: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2932, the "Homeland Security for Children Act." The Committee on Homeland Security recognizes that the Committee on Transportation Infrastructure has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 2932, and I appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

I concur with you that forgoing action on the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 2932 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2932, the Homeland Security for Children Act. This legislation seeks to ensure that the needs of children, one of our most vulnerable populations, are considered in Department of Homeland Security planning.

H.R. 2932 directs the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans to incorporate feedback from children's organizations into departmentwide activities.

Furthermore, this bill authorizes the technical expert position within the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, to identify and integrate the needs of children when preparing for, protecting against, responding to, and recovering from natural and man-made disasters.

It is imperative that we ensure that those who are unable to advocate for themselves are being represented when disaster strikes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, children make up nearly 23 percent of the Nation's population, and as the threats to our homeland continue to evolve, it is important that we be prepared to adequately assist every child at every age.

H.R. 2932 directs the Department of Homeland Security to include the needs of children, the most vulnerable among us, in all departmental activities.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter of support signed by several organizations representing the needs of children, including Save the Children, the Child Welfare League of America, Share Our Strength, and Zero to Three.

NATIONAL COALITION ON
CHILDREN AND DISASTERS,
Arlington, VA, July 12, 2019.

Hon. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PAYNE: As members of the National Coalition on Children and Disasters, which includes organizations that advocate for the well-being of children and their families in the preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural or man-made disasters, we endorse H.R. 2932, the "Homeland Security for Children Act of 2019."

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the nation learned how unprepared we were at the federal, state, and local levels of government in addressing and responding to the needs of children. As a result, in 2007, Congress established the National Commission on Children and Disasters, which produced a comprehensive book of recommendations in 2010. They included improved mental health services, pediatric and child welfare needs, and disaster management planning, response, and reunification for child care settings. Most importantly, the Commission strongly recommended that improved coordination of the needs of children among federal agencies was needed.

The Homeland Security for Children Act would help improve the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) response to the needs of children during disasters. Your bill would also increase accountability across government agencies in times of emergency and incorporate feedback from youth-serving organizations to prioritize and represent the needs of children into department-wide policies. In addition, it would mandate that DHS provide routine updates to Congress summarizing efforts undertaken to incorporate the needs of children in Department-wide policies, programs, and activities.

With natural disasters on the rise, the time is now for Congress to ensure that the necessary supports are in place to address needs of children and families following disasters. Children are not little adults. They have specialized needs that must be considered when planning for, responding to, and recovering from a disaster.

Thank you for your sponsorship of this critical legislation, as well as your ongoing leadership on behalf of children and families. If we can be of any assistance on advancing this bill, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

National Coalition on Children and Disasters Members include: Child Care Aware® of America; Child Welfare League of America; Early Care and

Education Consortium; First Focus Campaign for Children; Institute for Child Success; National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University; 1,000 Days; Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies; Public Advocacy for Kids; Save the Children; Share Our Strength; Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights; Zero to Three.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2932, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2932, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4737) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security to identify areas for further research within the Department, research and develop approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on homeland security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4737

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act".

SEC. 2. CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND PROTECTION AND PREPAREDNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 321. CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Science and Technology—

"(1) shall evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate the consequence of climate change on homeland security to identify areas for additional research and development pursuant to paragraph (2) with respect to—

"(A) any connection between climate change and homeland security, including

how the resulting competition for resources, economic distress, and social discontent has contributed to, among other outcomes, acts of terrorism;

“(B) the degree to which climate change is reflected in terrorism preparedness and emergency planning and policies, including with respect to preparedness, response to, and recovery from natural disasters; and

“(C) the degree to which the Federal funding structure to respond to major disaster declarations and emergency declarations is adequately structured to meet the demands of responding to and recovering from acts of terrorism and natural disasters that are aggravated by climate change; and

“(2) shall, to the extent practicable, conduct research and development on approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on homeland security in response to finding pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(b) SCOPE.—The scope of the research and development under subsection (a)(2) shall include the following:

“(1) Any connection between climate change and homeland security, including how the resulting competition for resources, economic distress, and social discontent can contribute to, among other outcomes, acts of terrorism.

“(2) The degree to which climate change is reflected in terrorism preparedness and emergency planning and policies, including with respect to preparedness, response to, and recovery from natural disasters.

“(3) The degree to which the Federal funding structure to respond to major disaster declarations and emergency declarations is adequately structured to meet the demands of responding to and recovering from acts of terrorism and natural disasters that are aggravated by climate change.

“(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall consult with the heads of other relevant agencies and departments of the Federal Government, first responders, and relevant owners and operators of critical infrastructure.

“(d) CLIMATE CHANGE DEFINED.—The term ‘climate change’ refers to detectable changes in one or more climate system components that is directly or indirectly attributed to—

“(1) human activity; and

“(2) altering the composition of the global atmosphere.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 320 the following new item:

“Sec. 321. Climate change research and development.”.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for three years, the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on any research and development activities carried out pursuant to section 321 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4737, the Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act.

Mr. Speaker, we know that climate change is happening, and it is affecting every country around the globe. Moreover, we know that climate change is leading to increased instability in developing countries.

Not only has the Department of Defense written about it, Congress acknowledged this in the fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, which included in its finding that “as global temperatures rise, droughts and famines can lead to more failed states, which are breeding grounds of extremist and terrorist organizations.”

While DOD has researched the implications of climate change on national security, DHS is best positioned to research and respond climate change on homeland security. There are already reports of extremist groups overseas using extreme weather events as a recruitment tool, targeting farmers whose crops were lost to drought or other weather events.

As these groups recruit more members, gaining strength, the threat they pose to homeland security increases. DHS must be proactive, not simply reactive in this threat.

H.R. 4737 will ensure that DHS is using its resources efficiently, evaluating what we already know about climate change’s effects on homeland security, and, where practical, developing tactics to mitigate those effects critical to the Department’s mission. With this knowledge, the good people at DHS will be able to better perform their job and keep our country safe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, January 9, 2020.

Chairman BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON, I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4737, the “Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act,” which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security on October 18, 2019.

I agree to work cooperatively on H.R. 4737 and in order to expedite consideration of the bill the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (“Science Committee”) will waive formal consideration of the bill. This is, however, not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims by the Science Committee over the subject matter contained in H.R. 4737 or similar legislation.

Thank you for agreeing to support the appointment of Science Committee conferees during any House–Senate conference convened on this legislation. Additionally, thank you for your assurances to include our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, January 8, 2020.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN JOHNSON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4737, the “Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act.” I recognize that the Committee on Science, Space and Technology has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 4737, and appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

I concur with you that forgoing action on the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Science, Space and Technology with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House–Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 4737 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,
BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4737, the Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act.

Numerous Federal studies have been conducted that summarize the impacts of climate change on the United States and discuss the nexus between climate change and terrorism.

This bill directs DHS’ Science and Technology Directorate to evaluate the current Federal research regarding the connection between climate change and homeland security to identify any research gaps and, to the extent practical, conduct additional research to fill those gaps.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, effectively combating terrorism is a bipartisan issue, and we have a duty to our constituents to support smart legislative proposals.

Passage of the DHS Climate Change Research Act would ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is proactively addressing and attempting to mitigate the risks that climate change poses to our homeland security.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues to support H.R. 4737, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4432, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGAINST DRONES AND EMERGING THREATS ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4432) to require the Department of Homeland Security to prepare a terrorism threat assessment relating to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4432

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Critical Infrastructure Against Drones and Emerging Threats Act".

SEC. 2. DRONE AND EMERGING THREAT ASSESSMENT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

(1) in consultation with other relevant officials of the Department, request additional information from other agencies of the Federal Government, State and local government agencies, and the private sector relating to threats of unmanned aircraft systems and other emerging threats associated with such new technologies;

(2) in consultation with relevant officials of the Department and other appropriate agencies of the Federal Government, develop and disseminate a security threat assessment regarding unmanned aircraft systems and other emerging threats associated with such new technologies; and

(3) establish and utilize, in conjunction with the Chief Information Officer of the Department and other relevant entities, a secure communications and information technology infrastructure, including data-mining and other advanced analytical tools, in order to access, receive, and analyze data and information in furtherance of the responsibilities under this section, including by establishing a voluntary mechanism whereby critical infrastructure owners and operators may report information on emerging threats, such as the threat posed by unmanned aircraft systems.

(b) *REPORT.*—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security shall prepare a threat assessment and report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the threat posed by unmanned aircraft systems, including information collected from critical infrastructure owners and operators and Federal, State, and local government agencies. Such assessment and report shall also include a classified plan to mitigate such threat, as appropriate.

(c) *DEFINITIONS.*—

(1) *CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.*—The term "critical infrastructure" has the meaning given such term in section 1016(e) of Public Law 107–56 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

(2) *UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.*—The term "unmanned aircraft system" has the meaning given such term in section 331 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note; Public Law 112–95).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4432, would require the Department of Homeland Security to take action and address an emerging threat to our Nation's security, the threat posed by unmanned aerial systems, or drones, to critical infrastructure.

Drone technology is far from new. However, as technology evolves, so do the capabilities of bad actors who may want to cause harm to the people of this country. We know the drones can be weaponized and used to carry out terrorist attacks, particularly on vulnerable, critical infrastructure. Earlier this fall, drones struck Saudi Arabian crude oil infrastructure, disrupting the production of 5.7 million barrels of oil per day and causing a spike in oil prices around the world.

In an evolving threat environment, understanding the threats that drones present to critical infrastructure here in the United States is critical to mitigating those threats.

Critical infrastructure owners and operators recognize the benefits of drone technology; many even put them to good use in their own businesses. Nevertheless, they do have concerns about the threats that unauthorized drones may pose to their facilities.

Currently, when a drone is detected in a facility's airspace, there is no DHS official agency to call. At the very least, owners and operators should be able to report unauthorized drone activity when they detect it.

H.R. 4432 would allow for information sharing between critical infrastructure owners and operators and DHS in several ways:

First, it would require DHS to establish a channel for the voluntary reporting information on drones, as well as other emerging threats, over a secure communications infrastructure developed in conjunction with the Department's Chief Information Officer.

Additionally, H.R. 4432, would mandate that the DHS' Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis develop and disseminate a threat assessment on unmanned aerial systems and other emerging threats associated with drone technology. This assessment would consider threat intelligence from Federal, State, local, and private-sector partners and would be prepared in consultation with other DHS components, like the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, that have relevant expertise.

Finally, H.R. 4432 would require DHS to report its findings to Congress within 1 year.

Collectively, this bill would require DHS to take the lead on understanding the threat that drones present to this Nation's critical infrastructure, while also creating an enduring mechanism for DHS to gather information on emerging threats, as they arise, from the owners and operators who stand on the front line of our defense.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4432, the Protecting Critical Infrastructure Against Drones and Emerging Threats Act.

In the wrong hands, unmanned aerial systems can pose a threat to the American people. At our borders, criminals are using drones to smuggle drugs and surveil law enforcement. Terrorists like ISIS have used them in the past to carry out attacks overseas.

We must do more to address this threat, and with this bill we do just that. H.R. 4432 protects the American people from the threat posed by these criminal drone operators.

□ 1630

This legislation requires the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis at DHS to prepare an assessment of the threat from drones with information gathered from Federal, State, local, and private-sector partners.

This bill also requires DHS to establish a secure communications network to receive and analyze information on the threat and a voluntary mechanism for reporting threat information from owners and operators of critical infrastructure.

During committee consideration of this bill, I proposed an amendment to allow DHS to produce this information in a classified form, as appropriate. I am pleased that language was included in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill that will position DHS to address the threat that drones pose to critical infrastructure. This measure was previously introduced by my colleague